

friends, the Township of Verona and the County of Essex in recognizing Mayor Nicholas M. Rolli's outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

THE COMPUTER INVESTMENT ACT—COMMONSENSE DEPRECIATION PERIOD FOR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce important legislation that will return common sense to the Internal Revenue Code by changing the depreciation period for computer equipment.

Currently, for tax purposes computer equipment must be depreciated over a 5-year period. Ironically, rapid technological advancements now being made in the computer industry guarantee that the average useful life of this equipment is 14 to 24 months. Businesses in highly competitive markets must continually replace computer equipment if they are to remain competitive. Although a small business will often purchase a new system after 2 years, it must keep the outdated equipment on the books for 5 years.

This legislation will update the Tax Code to ensure that it acknowledges ongoing, rapid advancements being made in the computer industry. This measure will change the depreciation period from 5 years to 2 years, ensuring that businesses are not penalized for making investments that keep them competitive. This change will serve to promote economic growth and job creation within these competitive industries.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to join Representative BEN CARDIN, me, and other original cosponsors in support of this important legislation.

HONORING THE SAVE OUR YOUTH INITIATIVE, CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Save Our Youth Initiative's Congressional Youth Council.

One of the major challenges facing Brooklyn, and other parts of our Nation, is finding ways to open doors of opportunity for youth who constitute a disproportionately large share of the unemployed, underemployed, and incarcerated. Through the Save Our Youth Initiative, I am striving to eliminate this bleak outlook for our youth, and to provide the necessary resources so that youth can build successful lives. An important vehicle in this effort is my Congressional Youth Council.

Since spring 1996, the Youth Council's leadership role in the community encourages youth to become more active citizens. Through organizing community forums such as a Youth Town Hall meeting attended by over 200 youth and adults, participating in

public hearings and other local events, and discussing policy issues with public officials such as Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, these youth blossomed into dedicated advocates. Each young leader—Macie Black, Keisha Walters, Jerome Jeffrey, Anjanee Pitambar, Alicia Lawrence, Francis Williams, and Akilah Holder—is a shining beacon of hope for the future of our community.

I am tremendously proud of their achievements in both school and the community. This month, five of these dedicated youth advocates will receive their New York State high school diplomas. They have truly shown that Generation X is a generation of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all of the members of my Congressional Youth Council.

INTRODUCTION OF ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENTS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer legislation on amendments to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to make certain clarifications to the land bank protection provisions, and for other purposes. Last year, the House passed H.R. 2505, however, the U.S. Senate did not consider this legislation in the 104th Congress.

This legislation is identical to H.R. 2505 from the 104th Congress. The Alaska Federation of Natives, the State of Alaska, the administration and members and staff of the Committee on Resources have spent the last year and a half to reach a consensus with non-controversial provisions.

For example, the bill would amend ANCSA to correct an inconsistency in current Federal law by allowing Regional Corporations to elect to acquire oil, gas, and coal estates reserved to the Federal Government beneath Native allotments surrounded or adjacent to subsurface lands conveyed to the Corporations pursuant to section 12 (a) of (b) of ANCSA.

Another provision would extend the exemption period from estate and gift tax for stock through its period of inalienability.

This bill would also amend ANILCA to extend the automatic land protections to land trades between village corporations, intraregional corporation land trades and Native Corporation land trades with the Federal or State governments.

Mr. Speaker, I offer this bill at this time to begin the process of reviewing each of these important provisions and others which affect Alaskans. I welcome comments on this important bill to ensure that we pass a non-controversial bill at a later date.

HONORING THE NATIONAL VICTORY OF THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS LEAGUES

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievement of the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League's statewide team. The team's Gold squad took first place in the Nation among Division I teams at the American Regions Math League Contest held in Iowa City, IA. This is a proud new achievement for the State of Minnesota, in that Minnesota has never finished first in this national competition which draws nearly 1,000 high school students representing nearly every State across the Nation.

The League hosted two teams from Minnesota, the Maroon and Gold teams, in the tradition of the Golden Gopher spirit and the University of Minnesota's school colors. The Gold team consists of 15 all-star "mathletes," 5 of whom are from St. Paul schools in the Fourth Congressional District which I am honored to represent. The Minnesota Maroon team, which placed seventh in the Division II competition bracket, is composed of 15 excellent math students, 4 of whom also attend schools in my hometown of St. Paul.

As a life-long science educator, I am proud of all these students and feel that the high level of participation by so many students from St. Paul is testimony to the level of support from families, teachers, and the St. Paul community. I would especially congratulate the coaches of these teams, all of whom are teachers. As an educator in Minnesota, I well understand the hard work, dedication, and determination that added up to success for the Minnesota Gold and Maroon teams at this national mathematics competition.

I am sure my colleagues will join me in commending the fine, hard-working students of the Minnesota State High School Mathematics Leagues for national excellence in mathematics. In a time when budgets are tight, classrooms are overcrowded, teachers are overworked, and students are faced with increasing challenges both in the school and in the home, the national achievement of these Minnesota students and teachers are all the more encouraging. Successes like these serve to remind us of our national priorities and the importance of investing in our children through education.

Congratulations to all the Minnesota students and the students from across the Nation who participated in this year's mathematics competition.

Members of the Minnesota Gold team were: Matt Craighead, St. Paul Academy; Eugene Davydov, St. Louis Park; Dave Freeman, Blake; Keith Frikken, Winona; John Gregg, St. Paul Academy; Matt Hancher, St. Paul Academy; Jesse Kamp, Apple Valley; Tom McElmurry, Irondale; Andy Niedermaier, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Nate Ostberg, St. Thomas Academy; Bill Owens, Rochester Mayo; Lars Roe, St. Paul Central; Joshua VonKorff, St. Cloud Tech; Jin Wang, Rochester John Marshall; and Ben Zweibel, St. Louis Park.